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## FRUIT FLY

(Continued from page nine.)

from these islands, there also seemed to be sufficient authority for radical action, if necessary. All naturally thought of a parasite. The introduction of the parasite that achieved such wonderful results in connection with the leaf hopper was fresh in their minds. He believed that the chances of obtaining a parasite that would do this work with the Mediterranean fly were not considered to be very great.

#### What About the Money?

The legislature unfortunately did not provide for matters of this kind. It proved an exceptionally good legislature in respect to a great many important subjects, and enacted a great deal of important legislation, but this was one particular in which he was disappointed—the failure to supplement the so-called conservation fund out of the general revenues. The conservation fund would not yield as much during the next two years as it did during the past two, and at the same time the requirements were greater all along the line. He had hoped for provision out of the general revenue, but those items were finally struck out of the general appropriation bill. The only way in which the matter could be met from the standpoint of the government would be to drop other important work closely allied to this, or to use the contingent fund, but it was a question how far that could be used, or perhaps the amount could be raised by private means. It hardly came within the jurisdiction of the board of health. Perhaps the shippers' wharf tax would be available for the purpose. It was a most serious situation, and should be met.

The first thing was to find out what had to be done. Perhaps it would be a good idea if three of the experts from the different departments would get together on the matter.

#### Ex-Governor Carter Wants Advice.

Ex-Governor Carter wanted to know whether he should cut his grapes down or not. If he was told that that was the proper thing, he would do it. He would do it, if it were only as an example to his neighbor.

Brigadier General Macomb—"Are the grapes infected?"

Carter—"Not so far as I know, but they may be later on."

Albert Waterhouse recalled the matter of burning down places some years ago when the plague visited Honolulu. He would state for this reason that it would be better to proceed slowly, and decide on something that would be quite right and proper.

#### Parasites Unknown Quantities.

Otto H. Swezy confirmed what Ehrhorn had said in regard to their ignorance as to the fruit that the fly had attacked. He suggested that the first step should be experiments as to methods to adopt. He then dwelt at considerable length upon the amount of work entailed in finding a parasite. In many instances, years passed before a parasite was found, and in many cases, all attempts to find one had failed. The parasite for the leaf hopper had been remarkably successful, but this success did not always attend their investigations. One must not be too enthusiastic over the parasite idea, he cautioned. It might require many years of work before any real good was accomplished. Go in for destroying the affected fruit, counseled Swezy.

Carter—"How do you suggest to destroy them?"

Swezy replied by advising that they be burned up or thrown into coal oil for a few days.

Ehrhorn confirmed the idea of burning or destroying by throwing them into coal oil.

Swezy said if anybody had some really choice fruits that were to be protected, the best way was to wrap them in little sacks of, say, muslin. This, of course, was tedious work, and only applied to small places.

#### Dr. Wilcox's Wet Blanket.

Dr. Wilcox tried to throw a wet blanket over the whole meeting, but judging by the vigorous remarks that were uttered in reply, he seemed merely to have stirred that fighting blood that had been sluggish.

Dr. Wilcox said that they would have to recognize that if they wished to raise the California quarantine they would have to remove every Mediterranean fruit fly. But he did not believe that could ever be done. There were supposedly intelligent people who still contended that cholera had not recently broken out. Now, the authorities worked for years and years to eradicate the gypsy moth. They had a tremendous force just simply scouring the country in every direction, but they did not come anywhere near exterminating it. It had spread now over a far wider area than it had ever been. Some of the men on the job took some of the insects to other parts so that the work would not run out. One man had actually admitted that he had carried them away. He was not trying to throw unnecessary cold water on the scheme.

If the people started out with the idea of exterminating the Mediterranean fruit fly, they would first of all have to find out its food. It attacked all sorts of fruits. If an attempt were made to exterminate all the guavas on the island it would take millions of dollars. Would you include pineapples to start with? he asked. It might get into bananas, or pomegranates. He had no reason to suspect that it would not turn to those fruits that it had not yet touched, when those that it had infected had been removed. They must never expect to exterminate the Mediterranean fly absolutely, and this will mean that the quarantine will be on the fruits as long as the pest is here. There are pests just as serious as the fruit fly, except for the quarantine. To keep it under control is a very different thing to getting absolutely free from it. While there was the barest possibility that we could be free from it with fearful destruction, yet he, for one, would much doubt it, and if they could not, after spending millions, they would get a horrible ha ha for it. If they did exterminate it, how long would they be free from it?

It might get into the dates that we have here. Shall we destroy all the dates? Shall we destroy all the fruits we have, and then find that the miserable little thing is breeding in some berry that is suitable for it? Until they were sure what it would and would not breed in, he thought they were going at the matter very blindly. If a government campaign were carried on, there might follow all sorts of legal suits and all sorts of blockades to a proposition of that sort. He had no recollection of any such pest ever having been eradicated. He agreed with the idea that each person should destroy all the infected fruit found on his or her premises. In this way the larvae would be destroyed.

Byron O. Clark agreed with the previous speaker.

#### A Reply by Higgins.

Higgins wished to reply to the two previous speakers. He said that he was radical. He considered that they should aim at nothing less than the eradication of the pest. He asked, did they realize that the pest was a menace to the whole fruit-growing industry, not only of the islands, but of the mainland as well? It would be but a few months before this insect will get to the other islands, and he said this notwithstanding that he had the utmost confidence in the methods of inspection in force. It would go in the pockets of passengers and in other ways that would escape the inspectors. It will be only a few years before it will get to the mainland. With a rigid system of inspection, and only one steamer a month from Australia, the pest had been introduced. There were probably three steamers a week to the Coast, and this number was increasing so rapidly that within a few years there might be a daily service. Then there were sailing vessels that required no longer than the steamers from Australia, and, therefore, it must be supposed that it would not be very long before the insect is established in California, Washington and Oregon. Once on the mainland, it will travel, and it will be impossible to destroy

it once it gets started. It is a national question, he said, and he thought that it was the duty of those in these islands to look at the matter in a broad way, and not simply from the standpoint of the Hawaiian Islands.

#### The Cost to Combat the Pest.

As to the method of control and the cost, the board of health was employing thirteen men as inspectors in the city. To protect the whole island, it would cost \$10,000 a month. The local estimates could not be based on what had occurred in other countries, for conditions here are different. He thought that the matter should be placed before the government officials of the United States in order that the people there might know what the situation is, and its seriousness. He knew that it was a tremendous task to try to exterminate the pest. The cost will probably run into thousands of dollars. Nevertheless, he believed that the pest could be eradicated. Fighting a pest on the mainland was different to fighting it on Oahu. Here the ocean would assist. He did not think that the destruction of fine trees was necessary. In dollars and cents, what was our comfort compared to the menace by this insect? Whatever action was taken, he wished to go on record of being in favor of an attempt to destroy this insect, and of placing the situation before the representatives of the people of the United States on the mainland, for they should know and say what they should like to do about it. (Applause.)

#### Ehrhorn's Sound Advice.

Ehrhorn—"If we cannot eradicate this pest, let us try and reduce the number. (Applause.) A Japanese had a melon patch on Beretania avenue, and there were fifty melons lying around—just culls from his crop. They were reeking with maggots. I pointed out to him that if those melons were allowed to lie there, there would be no tomatoes on the adjoining patch. Two days later that place was all cleaned up. Out of a piece of peel about two inches square I obtained over one hundred melon flies and twenty odd other flies. I believe that the time is at hand when we should recommend some kind of clean culture." (Renewed applause.)

#### Do Nothing, Says Bryan.

Professor Bryan—"I believe that there are times when it is better to do nothing, and this is one of them. This is a campaign that need not take a long time to conduct. With a few thousand dollars in the hands of Mr. Swezy or Mr. Ehrhorn with an assistant, we could find out whether this fly is confined to this island. We could find out its range in thirty days, and in sixty days we could find out whether it could be forced to go on to other fruits."

#### Ship No Specked Fruit.

Ehrhorn then told that he had instructed the biggest shippers of bananas and pineapples to send no fruit that was affected to the Coast. If the men on the Coast find any maggots at all in these fruits from here, then everything will be off.

President Mott-Smith gave some excellent advice as to the duties of the inspectors, and how the people should be educated up to assisting. Do it by kindness, if you can, counseled Mott-Smith.

Smith, but keep the cudgel up your sleeves for those who needed this form of help to make them see things in the proper light.

#### The Japanese Press Will Assist.

Editor Sheba of the Hawaii Shimpō promised his support in giving advice to his countrymen through the columns of his paper. He caused much laughter by threatening to publish the names of those Japanese who had not cleaned up their houses by clean-up day. That, he said, would help the committee in a material way. He would try to assist in the same way by pointing out to the Japanese the great necessity for destroying spoiled fruit. Perhaps the English press would not be able to go as far as the Japanese press, for they might be sued for libel. (Laughter.)

#### Team Work Needed.

Carter then dwelt on the necessity for putting in educational work. Those present should get together and point out to their neighbors and others the necessity for destroying bad fruit. Men like Dr. Wilcox were needed to stir them on. If they should fail in eradicating the pest, they will gain something by having made the effort. Spread information as far as possible. "We want team work and co-operation with the scientists," said the ex-governor. He then moved, "That this whole matter be referred to the board of agriculture to take the matter into consideration, and we urge that they find ways and means and do all possible to get the pest in check, and that we agree to co-operate with them as much as possible; also that they estimate what it will cost to conduct the campaign."

#### Gerritt Wilder seconded.

Professor Gilmore said that he was gratified at the sentiments expressed. No doubt the board of agriculture will call the scientists and other officials together for consultation.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Higgins then moved: "That the press of the islands be requested to publish a notification to the effect that all infected specimens of fruit be sent to Entomologist E. M. Ehrhorn, Box No. 207, Postoffice, Honolulu." This motion was also carried.

#### A SANDY BEACH.

There is not a beach on this island equal to that at Haleiwa, and the water is deep enough to allow freedom in swimming. The management is making plans for the entertainment of a large number of guests at the hotel during the holidays, and a number of reservations have already been made. The rates at Haleiwa are low enough to insure a feeling of satisfaction at the economy one may show in selecting a place for a vacation. The meals and service, the rooms and surroundings, are all that one may wish for.

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